

Read to Lead Development Council

Two-Year Vision Focused Discussion Handout

DCF Mission, Goals, Values

Mission and Goals

The mission of the Department of Children and Families is to promote the economic and social well-being of Wisconsin's children and families. The Department is committed to protecting children, strengthening families, and building communities.

Our five overarching goals are:

1. Children are nurtured, safe and engaged
2. Enhance prevention and early intervention efforts throughout Wisconsin
3. Families will have access to quality early care and education
4. Parents will secure and maintain meaningful jobs
5. Fathers will be more engaged in the lives of their children

DCF Values

DCF will:

- Make decisions and act based on the best interests of children and their families because Wisconsin's future is dependent upon their success today.
- Partner with the people of Wisconsin to keep children safe, promote economic stability and ensure the success of children and families, because it is our shared responsibility.
- Share information, seek input and explain our actions, because we value transparency and accountability.
- Treat everyone with dignity and respect, because we believe in everyone's inherent value.
- Manage our resources efficiently, because we value good stewardship.
- Support, develop and hold accountable our employees and contractors, because their performance is vital to our success.
- Keep learning about and applying what works, because we want to continually improve what we do.

September 29, 2016

Governor Scott Walker's Vision of Read to Lead Development Council

"For Wisconsin students to thrive in their academic studies it is crucial to develop literacy skills at a young age," Governor Walker said. "Literacy provides a strong foundation for future learning and we are proud to say last year, fourth and eighth grade reading scores went up again in our state. We continue to invest in initiatives like *Read to Lead*, which improve literacy in Wisconsin through early screenings, teacher development, and investments in effective programs to help make sure every student in our state is able to build a successful future from a great education."

—March 2, 2016 Press Release

"Our Read to Lead initiative is a priority because it is imperative that we offer all children the greatest opportunities to succeed in life, Governor Walker said. "We know that children who are not skilled readers by the time they reach fourth grade, will face greater challenges in their other studies. These grants are awarded to groups and organizations that will help improve literacy, and therefore eliminate those challenges, and pave the way for a brighter future."

The Read to Lead Development Council was formed under Governor Walker's Read to Lead initiative and is a public-private partnership tasked with the goal of supporting and expanding reading and literacy programs in Wisconsin. The Read to Lead Development Council consists of Governor Walker, State Superintendent Tony Evers, legislators, teachers, business and philanthropic representatives, and literacy experts. Read to Lead's goal is to ensure students have the necessary reading skills before they reach 4th grade, where they transition from learning to read to reading to learn.

—November 20, 2014 Press Release

"Literacy is the skill that provides the foundation for education," Governor Walker said. "We are committed to making sure kids know how to read before they reach fourth grade, when they need to read to learn other subjects. My *Read to Lead* initiative promotes literacy through early screenings, teacher development, and investments for effective programs helping make sure every child is on track to a successful future built on a great education."

Read Across America is a national campaign bringing together schools, libraries, and communities to promote reading for children and teens. The event occurs each year in conjunction with the birthday of famous child author, Theodor "Seuss" Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss.

In 2011, Governor Walker launched his *Read to Lead* initiative, a comprehensive effort to support and expand literacy programs throughout the state, so every fourth grade student is no longer learning to read, but reading to learn. The initiative includes programs assessing basic literacy skills of students from kindergarten through second grade and strengthening literacy requirements for teacher preparation training.

—February 28, 2014 Press Release